

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-13, 15-27 and 28-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-13, 15-18, 21, 24 and 26 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,260,040 to Kauffman et al., hereafter Kauffman.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner contends that Kauffman's checked-in status and checked-out status are user-defined states. As noted in the amendment filed on August 25, 2008, Kauffman's check-in and checkout operations are performed by Kauffman's system to read and write a version of the object in a version control system and not of a life cycle process as claimed in amended claim 11. Moreover, Kauffman does not disclose the combination of "determining permissions for actions with an object based on a user defined state of said object", "receiving a request to perform one of said actions with said object" and "retrieving from said plurality of definitions a definition of said user defined state of said object that corresponds to said action". Moreover, Kauffman does not disclose "a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of states". Kauffman merely discloses check-in and checkout operations for a version of an object.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner argues that Kauffman discloses "user-defined states/flags such as 'checked out and checked in'", citing Fig. 5A, block 580A and Fig. 6, block 620. The Examiner is contending that Kauffman's flags correspond to the recited "user defined states". However, Kauffman's flags are designed into the system to be set upon check-in and check out. There is no disclosure in Kauffman that the flags are user defined. The Examiner appears to be ignoring the "user defined" adjectives in independent claim 11. To clarify the

claim and positively recite the user defined states and user defined transitions, independent claim 11 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from said user a plurality of definitions of a plurality of user defined states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of states of said life cycle process".

Kauffman does not disclose or teach receiving from a user the recited state definitions and state transitions of a life cycle process. Independent claim 12 has been similarly amended. Therefore, independent claims 11 and 12 are not anticipated by Kauffman.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Kauffman is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,747 to Van Huben, hereafter Van Huben.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 16 has been amended to be dependent on claim 11. Since claim 11 was not rejected as anticipated by Van Huben, the rejection of claim 16 is obviated by the amendment. The rejection of claim 17, which is dependent on claim 16, is also obviated by the amendment.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined states of a life cycle process;
processing an addition of a new state to said a plurality of user defined states".

Van Huben does not disclose either of the these steps because Van Huben contains no disclosure of receiving from a user user defined states and user defined state transitions of a life cycle process. Van Huben discloses a versioning system that handles check in and check out of objects for editing, modifying and versioning, but does not disclose a life cycle process and receiving the user defined state definitions and user defined state transitions of the life cycle process from a user as recited. Therefore, Van Huben does not anticipate amended independent claim 18 and its dependent claims 19 and 20.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states of a user defined qualification process;
processing a modification of a state of said plurality of said user defined states of said user defined qualification process".

Van Huben does not disclose either of the these steps because Van Huben contains no disclosure of receiving from a user user defined states and user defined state transitions of a user defined qualification process. Van Huben discloses a versioning system that handles check in and check out of objects for editing and modifying and versioning, but does not disclose a user defined qualification process and receiving the state definitions and state transitions of the user defined qualification process from a user as recited. Therefore, Van Huben does not anticipate amended independent claim 21 and its dependent claims 22 and 23.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from a user a plurality of user defined qualification states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined states of a life cycle process of a source control system".

Van Huben does not disclose this step because Van Huben contains no disclosure of receiving from a user defined states and user defined state transitions of a life cycle process of a source control system. Van Huben discloses a versioning system that handles check in and check out of objects for editing and modifying and versioning, but does not disclose a life cycle process of a source control system and receiving the state definitions and state transitions of a life cycle process of a source control system from a user as recited. Therefore, Van Huben does not anticipate amended independent claim 24 and its dependent claim 25.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Van Huben is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 26, 27, 29-34 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauffman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,754,885 to Dardinski, hereafter Dardinski.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner contends that Kauffman's checked-in status and checked-out status are user-defined states. As noted in the amendment filed on August 25, 2008, Kauffman's check-in and checkout operations are performed by Kauffman's system to read and write a version of the object in a version control system and not of a life cycle process as claimed in claim 1. In particular, Kauffman does not disclose "a plurality of user-defined states" and "a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of states" of the life cycle process. Kauffman merely discloses check-in and checkout operations for a version of an object.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner argues that Kauffman discloses "user-defined states/flags such as 'checked out and checked in'", citing Fig. 5A,

block 580A and Fig. 6, block 620. The Examiner is contending that Kauffman's flags correspond to the recited "user defined states". However, Kauffman's flags are designed into the system to be set upon check-in and check out. There is no disclosure in Kauffman that the flags are user defined. The Examiner appears to be ignoring the "user defined" adjectives in independent claim 1. To clarify claim 1 and positively recite the user-defined states and user defined transitions, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined states of said life cycle process;
performing said life cycle process on said object of a control strategy for a process control system by subjecting said object when checked out to said plurality of user-defined states, each state having attributes".

Kauffman does not disclose the receiving step in which user defined states and user defined transitions of the life cycle process are received from a user. Moreover, Kauffman does not disclose a life cycle process and, therefore, cannot perform a life cycle process on the object when the object is checked out. Moreover, Kauffman does not provide a change state function for a user to change a current one of the user defined states to a next one of the user defined states of the life cycle process as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Dardinski, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply the above noted deficiencies of Kauffman. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10 and 38 are unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to recite:

"a life cycle process component executable on said processor to receive from a user a plurality of user-defined life cycle states and to enforce compliance with said user-defined life cycle states for at least one object of a control strategy of a plurality of devices of said process control system, wherein said life cycle process component subjects said object to said user-defined life cycle states".

Kauffman lacks the recited life cycle component. Kauffman discloses a versioning component that handles editing and versioning of objects, but does not disclose a life cycle component as recited. The Examiner contends that the recited life cycle component reads on Kauffman's digital library that sets flags when an object is checked out and checked in. However, this is an activity of Kauffman's versioning system that handles check in and check out of objects for editing and modifying and versioning. Kauffman does not disclose a life cycle process component that receives the state definitions and state transitions of a life cycle process of a source control system from a user as recited. Dardinski, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply the deficiencies of Kauffman. Therefore, amended independent claim 26 and its dependent claims 27 and 29-34 and 36-38 are unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 26, 27, 29-34 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 5 and 35 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauffman in view of Dardinski and further in view of Murthy.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. This rejection of claim 5 is obviated by the amendment to independent claim 1, from which claim 5 depends. The combination of Kauffman and Dardinski lacks recited features of amended

independent claim 1. Murthy, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply these features. Accordingly, the combination of Kauffman, Dardinski and Murthy also lacks these features.

This rejection of claim 35 is obviated by the amendment. As discussed above, the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski lacks recited features of independent claim 26, from which claim 35 depends. Murthy, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply these features. Accordingly, the combination of Kauffman, Dardinski and Murthy also lacks these features.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 5 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauffman in view of Murthy.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined states of a life cycle process;
validating a user defined state transition from a current state to a next state of a plurality of user defined states".

As noted above in the discussion of amended independent claim 1, Kauffman lacks the receiving step of the above recital. Kauffman does not disclose a life cycle process and, therefore, does not disclose the validating step. Murthy, which was cited for a different purpose, does not supply the deficiencies of Kauffman. Therefore, the combination of Kauffman and Murthy lacks the

receiving and validating steps of the above noted recital. Accordingly, amended independent claim 13 is unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman and Murthy.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite:

"receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined states of a life cycle process".

As noted above in the discussion of amended independent claim 1, Kauffman lacks the receiving step of the above recital. Kauffman does not disclose a life cycle process and, therefore, does not disclose the remaining steps of amended independent claim 15 which recite activities that concern the "user defined states" and "user defined state transitions" of the life cycle process. Murthy, which was cited for a different purpose, does not supply the deficiencies of Kauffman. Therefore, the combination of Kauffman and Murthy lacks the receiving step and the remaining steps of amended independent claim 15. Accordingly, amended independent claim 15 is unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman and Murthy.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 13 and 15 is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action cites U.S. Patent No. 7,278,106 that was not applied in the rejection of the claims. This patent has been reviewed, but is believed to be inapplicable to the claims.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that

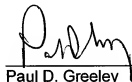
claims 1, 3-6, 8-27 and 29-38 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: _____

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Paul D. Greeley
Reg. No. 31,019
Attorney for Applicant
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
(203) 327-4500